05/08/2020 Viktor Moran's Arm



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Viktor Moran's Arm













Chapter 1 by ArchAngel

As he groggily woke to a steady pulsing bleep and whispered voices, his head throbbed, his mouth was dry. His blurry eyes struggled to focus on the white glare around him.

He was on his back in a hospital bed, a clear tube taped to his left wrist. He groaned, his whole left arm a mess of mottled purple bruises and lacerations held together with butterfly stitches. It did not look good, and he couldn't afford to take time off work, not now, he desperately needed that money.

He flashed back.

The last agonizing moment he remembered, he was dead on his feet from a 16 hour shift and got in the way of a construction droid, a 12 foot mass of pistons, rotating rods and arms. There was searing pain as he threw his arms before his face, then blackness.

"Mr Ellis, you're awake." A smiling nurse sauntered over, pushed a button beside him, and the back of the bed slowly tilted up so he was facing her.

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Confusion briefly swept over him as he looked down again at his damaged arm. Then, with a sinking feeling in the pit of his stomach, he turned his head to the right.

Chapter 2 by Owen Stansifer



There was a mass of cold steel and black wires for an arm, yet he could feel the blanket under his hand. He slowly moved one finger then two fingers, then he moved his entire hand as if he had an arm like that his entire life.

Chapter 3 by Joseph Kinman



"Billy, your mother is here to see you. Would you like us to show her in?"

"Fine."

A moment later Billy's mom opens the door to his hospital room and steps inside. She walks over to the side of the bed and signs "Hey Billy." Billy signs "Hey Sheretta" back.

She smiles and squeezes his good hand.

Using her hands she communicates with Billy about the surgery and his current state. He's feeling well and rested and ready to get back to work. After some time of usual conversation, Sheretta starts for the door. Without saying why she was leaving, she walked outside and called for the nurse.

"How much time does he have before the software takes over his brain?"

The nurse signs back, "We don't know at this time, but it could be years or it could be tomorrow. Such invasive protocol can spontaneously erupt at any time."

"Is he a risk to others?"

"We calculate entropy to be less than .01 percent."

"But a possibility nonetheless."

"Yes, nonetheless."

Sheretta stares probingly at the nurse.

"When will he be released?"

"Tomorrow afternoon he will be free to leave. Will he need transportation?"

"No, that's not necessary. His brother will take him home."

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Outside the hospital the temperatures are reaching 100 degrees. The pavement is screaming upward towards the sky. As Sheretta pulls out of the parking lot, another nondescript vehicle is put in drive.

Chapter 4 by ArchAngel



Not long after Sheretta leaves, a doctor enters Billy's room, swiping through a Plexiglas medical chart. "Ah, Mr Ellis, I'm Doctor Viktor Moran." He extends a hand which Billy shakes. "Glad to see your bionics are doing so well.

"I'm the one who designed the arm and oversaw your surgery. Of course, I'm biased, but I like to think I've improved on the human arm. It's a next generation prototype, first of its kind, far more advanced than those clumsy droids you see about. Lightning reflexes, enhanced sensitivity, and a degree of autonomy to safeguard the owner."

Billy nods, "Thanks Doc, it seems to be working a dream, and I'll be okay to get back to work tomorrow?"

"I don't see why not. For now, I recommend you take it easy while we continue to monitor and run tests on the bio-circuitry in your brain."

Sheretta steps out of her vehicle into the blast of heat outside and hurries into the air conditioned building. Almost as soon as she sits in her office, her intercom screen lights up. The receptionist signs, "Sheretta, a Mr Jones has arrived, he says he doesn't have an appointment, but would like to speak to you personally. Are you available?"

Sheretta taps for a view of reception, a large handsome man in a pinstripe suit with a grey fedora is waiting casually. "Send him in." she signs.

The man enters and doffs his fedora. "Thank you for seeing me. I'll come straight to the point Ms Ellis we are willing to pay an extremely large sum of money for something you've recently."

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Chapter 5 by Joseph Kinman



Shadows from the pine trees scroll across the top of Ben's red truck as it takes a tight left curve in the road. It's the height of winter and the temps outside have reached tripled digits everyday since Billy can remember. The motor chugs at the heat, desperately trying to keep below H. Billy rolls the window down all the way and lets "The Arm" hang out the side.

Or better named by his brother Ben it's called the "Metal Meat Hook."

The hook hangs out and the red truck sucks in air. Pine trees, buzzards, and mailboxes. That's all they would say existed in this land.

"That arm links up to your brain? So you think and it does?"

"That's right."

"Is it instant?"

"Yup."

"How strong is it? We should test it out on something. When we get to the house we gotta try and squeeze test it."

"haha, alright."

"Dude, you should go on a squeeze festival tour and earn us some creds so we can get out to O'Huna Island."

"I'd buy us a mansion on the beach and move the whole family out there."

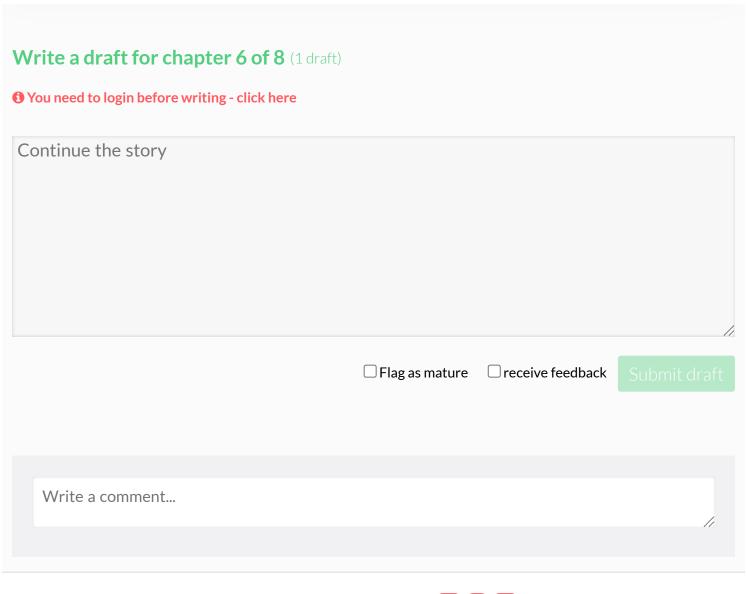
"Are you going to work tomorrow?"

"Yeah."

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